

RDRBelp  
2/12/02

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: S. Nagamitsu et al.

: Art Unit: 2838

Serial No.: 09/912,854

: Examiner:

Filed: July 25, 2001

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FOR: POWER CONSUMPTION SYSTEM AND  
METHOD, INFORMATION ASSEMBLY AND  
MEDIUM (AS AMENDED)

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**SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

27. (Newly Added) A method of purchasing an appliance consuming electric power from an electric power provider comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining by a user, from an appliance provider, an appliance at a special purchase price;

(b) operating by the user the appliance obtained in step (a);

(c) measuring the value of the electric power consumed by the appliance when operating in step (b);

(d) transmitting the measurement value of the electric power consumed in step (c) to a computer database;

(e) accumulating in the database the amount of power measured in step (c);

(f) charging the user by the electric power provider a predetermined fee calculated based on the amount of power accumulated in step (e); and

(g) providing a portion of the calculated fee charged to the user in step (f) to the appliance provider to offset the special purchase price in step (a).

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